Death of Indian students in USA

†*315. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:
MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether cases of death of Indian students in USA are increasing;

(b) whether information regarding deaths and obtaining of the dead bodies is also being delayed;

(c) if so, the steps being taken to stop this;

(d) whether information is also being obtained from the concerned families; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (e) In the recent past, three incidents have taken place in the US in which four Indian studenths have been killed. This US police, municipal and university authorities have fully cooperated in the investigation of the aforesaid cases. In all three cases, officials of the Embassy of India, Washington DC and relevant Consulates General promptly visited the concerned university and interacted with the university and government authorities, relatives and friends of the victims as well as the local students associations to learn about the circumstances in which the incidents took place, facilitate the offieial investigation and help organise the dispatch of the mortal remains of the victims to India.

Loan to farmers against NSC/KVP

*316. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB PEEVEE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with HDFC Bank to provide loans to farmers through post offices agaisnt National Savings Certificate (NSC) and Kisan Vikas Patra (KVP) in some States;

(b) if so, the States identified for the purpose; and

(c) by when the scheme would be operationalized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Some Postal Circles of the Department of Posts have entered into a tie up with HDFC Bank for forwarding loan applications against the national Savings Certificates and Kisan Vikas Patra to the aforementioned bank. The post office verifies the genuineness of the National Savings Certificates and Kisan Vikas Patra before forwarding the loan applications to the HDFC Bank.

(b) and (c) The details are given in the Statement.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.